

It is really a great honor to appear this evening with a group of colleagues and friends, who I so admire and respect, because they clearly share our network's vision . . . and, our sense of duty to make a difference in the communities we serve. I accept this year's President's Award with great pride, as a validation of the important work done by our network, Court TV—work that is very much unfinished and ongoing—and, I accept this award with great appreciation on behalf of the extraordinarily dedicated and talented team led by Dick Beahrs and Scoot MacPherson in this area, at Court TV.

It is, equally, a real privilege to appear with a gathering of probably the most passionate, dedicated and caring people anywhere in the media. I am proud to be a part of an industry like cable that is recognized for its unequalled support for diverse programs and initiatives providing valuable public service outreach. Moreover, the suggestions and new ideas you have shared over the past three days will, no doubt, contribute significantly to our ability to maintain cable's position as both the moral and financial leader, in the field of telecommunications.

All of us in this room, tonight, know that we don't have to do public service. We don't have to go into neighborhoods and encourage better education, promote health care, or teach tolerance and understanding. Why do we—why do you—participate and pursue these causes: quite simply, because you choose to. I have some idea of the sacrifice and effort those here, tonight, make every day, and it is not unreflective of Winston Churchill's observation that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life . . . by what we give." Those who received this award, in senior management, like myself, do so merely on behalf of those, in the field, like you, who make the real contributions. It is we, who should give this award to you, because it is we who should appreciate and, indeed, should be inspired by what you do.

We must all recognize that public service is important from a number of perspectives: its impact is felt in both karma and dollars. Indeed, the legacy of the vast array of programs represented here, tonight, will live on long after most, if not all, of the shows and series that can be seen on any given network. I particularly value what people do in this area because, quite frankly, I am a product of the Kennedy 60's—I bought the ideal of contribution and, in fact, it has served me well; it has served Court TV well, and hopefully it serves you, because through your efforts, public service puts this industry in the best possible light, especially in these dark and troubled times.

In a world where we correctly criticize much of what we see on television . . . and in a business where we are struggling with customer service and competition, the one real, indisputable Beacon (no pun intended) of success in every corner . . . and, by any measure, is the diverse and important work that people in Public Affairs do every day. Cable, like any service industry, often gets a black eye. But, because of your words and, more importantly, your deeds, you are the people who ameliorate those complaints and put this industry in the enviable position of being community activists for positive social change.

Not only is what you do substantively important, but it is also well communicated to our audiences—both viewers of our programming and, more generally, subscribers who

live in our communities of service. Oddly enough, the only ones who sometimes have trouble hearing your message and understanding its importance, are, frankly, those often responsible for the purse strings. The irony is that we must all do a better job in communicating the legitimate success and importance of our work not externally, outside our company, but rather, to those in the executive suites. . . . Not only because all of us here, tonight, are on the side of right (and, as we say at Court TV, justice), but also because, in the end, this is also very much in the best economic interests of our companies. We can do well . . . by doing good; we can do "well", financially . . . by doing "good", morally. In that regard, public affairs efforts are among the most distinctive and beneficial qualities of cable systems and their programming. Why: because you live where the rubber meets the road. You live where the cable operator or cable network meets the customer or viewer, as the case may be . . . you are part and parcel of the communities in which you serve . . . and, given your work, this industry simply could not ask for better representatives.

We take great pride in our commitment to public service at Court TV, and, especially, the recognition it is receiving tonight, because we have always understood the power of the medium of television—and, the potential for good that a network like ours can play. For example, I recently learned that five-year olds, typically, have watched more than 5,000 hours of TV before they even enter kindergarten—in most families, today, that's more time than they have spent in conversation with their parents—and, in all cases, that is, statistically, more hours . . . than it takes to earn a college degree. With our experience in creating quality educational initiatives—and, with the support and partnership of our cable affiliates, we are increasingly focused on harnessing the power of television—both, on and off air—for its use as an effective and engaging public service tool.

In that regard, allow me to point out some of the recent specific initiatives that Court TV's Public Affairs and Corporate Communications people have introduced or otherwise pursued and which provide me with the privilege of standing here, tonight, on their behalf.

Principally, you know us for our Golden Beacon Award-winning Choices and Consequences education programs, which, in its five year existence, has reached more than 100,000 schools with programs designed to keep our nation's youth . . . out of our nation's courts, by teaching young people that a poor choice made in a moment . . . can have devastating consequences . . . for a lifetime. Through Choices and Consequences, we aim to empower our children to make responsible decisions and to contribute, positively, to society. We have added educational programs like the Forensics in the Classroom Curriculum, and the Mobile Investigation Unit tour, which has made stops in 20 cities last year and plans 23 this spring and summer. Tomorrow afternoon, we celebrate the latest group of "Everyday Heroes," honoring those who demonstrate bravery and courage, often through individual acts of personal sacrifice. As you may be aware, an element of education and pro-social causes runs, like a thread, through much of our programming. Certainly, many of our investigative documentaries and specials raise critical issues regarding tolerance, or the fairness of our criminal justice system. This

year, for example, we will again focus on Robert F. Kennedy's legacy and the Human Rights Award. And, finally, our original movies attempt to raise important and relevant questions which lead to informed debate about a variety of judicial and social issues.

The poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success." It is in that light, that we at Court TV share with you in your passion, your vision and our mutual goal of bringing about positive change through education and understanding.

I accept this year's CTPAA President's Award, as a validation of the public affairs work done by Court TV; I accept the President's Award, on behalf of all of you, whose tireless dedication has so contributed to tonight's . . . success; and, finally, I accept this award as a reflection of your values and ideals which are so important to the future of this industry and . . . this nation.●

PROFESSOR JOE WILKINS' RETIREMENT

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Professor Joe Wilkins' contributions to the State of Illinois and our country.

Professor Wilkins will retire from the University of Illinois in May 2003. He will officially become a "University of Illinois Professor Emeritus of Management" which is an accomplishment in and of itself, but is only one facet of his career.

Professor Wilkins has been a very effective teacher. He received an "Outstanding Teacher" award selected by a vote of the University student body. His graduate course in International Business was chosen by students in the College of Business and Management as their most valuable class. Additionally, during 2002 Professor Wilkins received the highest evaluation of all the faculty by students in the college.

Prior to his teaching career, Professor Wilkins served with distinction as a captain in the United States Air Force. While serving he was repeatedly decorated for heroism in combat. His many decorations include the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, which were awarded for his twice being wounded in combat. Despite being injured in combat, he continues to run at least one 26.2-mile marathon a year and enjoys scuba diving and sky-diving.

In addition to his teaching and service to many organizations, Professor Wilkins has responded for over 30 years to the needs of his home community—Springfield, IL. Some of the many services he has provided to Springfield include being a regular blood donor and

providing flights to needy persons requiring medical assistance. He has donated more than 15 gallons of blood including 59 pints at the Central Illinois Community Blood Bank in Springfield.

Professor Wilkins has held positions with both the State of Illinois and the city of Springfield. As an operations research analyst for the State of Illinois he helped analyze managerial operations. Additionally, he has served in many capacities and consulted on multiple issues for the city of Springfield. Most notably, in 1982 he took an academic leave from the university to serve for 13 months as Comptroller of Springfield. On numerous occasions since then he has provided management advice to the city of Springfield.

Professor Wilkins has been a teacher and role model to thousands of undergraduate and graduate students. I am sure the University of Illinois will miss him greatly. Professor Wilkins has had a lifetime of community service in which he established a reputation of personal integrity and demonstrated courage. He is a distinguished citizen and deserves to be recognized for all of his contributions to society.●

IN HONOR OF E.E. WARD MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY LLC OF COLUMBUS, OHIO

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to the E.E. Ward Moving and Storage Company LLC of Columbus, OH, for 122 years of service to the great State of Ohio. Recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Congressional Black Caucus recognized the E.E. Ward Company as the oldest African-American-owned business in America.

The Ward family has longstanding roots in Ohio dating back before the Civil War. From 1842 to 1858, John T. Ward was a conductor on the Underground Railroad which ran through Columbus, and the Ward home was a well-known stop. During the Civil War, John T. Ward received government contracts to haul munitions, supplies, and equipment for the U.S. Army.

After the Civil War, John's son, William Ward, began working for his father, and then he went to work for the Union Transfer and Storage Company. At Union Transfer, he moved up through the ranks serving as teamster, work supervisor, foreman, and rate clerk. In 1881, William Ward rejoined his father John T. Ward and together they founded the Ward Transfer Line, a wagon transportation business in downtown Columbus.

Since 1881 the company has evolved and changed with the times. In 1889, the company changed its name to E.E. Ward Transfer and Storage Company, when the youngest son, Edgar Earl Ward, assumed management of the company. He was 18 years old. Twenty-five years later, in 1914, the company began its shift to motorized moving and retired its last horse in 1921.

Over the years, E.E. Ward has performed moves for schools, museums, libraries, business, and homes. In the 1950s, the E.E. Ward Company was awarded two notable contracts in Columbus—from the Steinway Piano Company and the Franklin County Board of Elections. During the course of those contracts, it is estimated that the company moved over 900,000 pianos and hundreds of voting machines to various precincts in Columbus.

The Company's Chairman Emeritus is Eldon W. Ward, the grandson of William Ward. He joined the company in 1945 and retired 51 years later in 1996. Mr. Eldon Ward has been recognized as an accomplished business leader and is admired by many. He was inducted into the Ohio Corporate Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame in 1992. Under his leadership, the E.E. Ward Company received the National Torch Award of Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau.

As a community leader, Eldon Ward served on the boards of over 40 community organizations, including the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Chamber of Commerce. He served as board president of the Columbus Foundation, the Franklin County United Way, and the Central Ohio YMCA, which was renamed the Eldon W. Ward YMCA in 1991.

Today, E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Company is an agent of Bekins Van Lines and provides local and interstate household goods relocation services and a variety of logistics services to residential, government and corporate customers. The company focuses primarily on residential and business moves and storage.

The longevity of the E.E. Ward Company is the result of its commitment to excellent service. The current owners, Brian A. Brooks, president and godson of Eldon Ward, and Otto Beatty III, co-owner, recently purchased the company. Both are in their early thirties. They have chosen to carry on the entrepreneurial torch of their parents and grandparents and are wonderful examples to other young business owners. In fact, the company was recently awarded the 2002 Super Service Award from Angie's List, a consumer and household rating company.

Brian Brooks and Otto Beatty are privy to a wealth of experience and wisdom from family members and community members. Like their forebears, they focus on providing excellent service to their customers and giving generously to their community. Their dedication and commitment is a shining example of good corporate citizenship, something we need more of throughout America.

I am pleased that this year the King Arts Complex in Columbus will be the recipient of a beautiful painting by famed Columbus Artist Aminah Lynn Robinson that illustrates the history of the company and the Ward family's

role in the Underground Railroad. We shall all pay tribute to people like the John T. Ward family who helped America's enslaved citizens gain freedom. That is why in my first year in the United States Senate, I co-sponsored the bill to provide Federal funding to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, the only national center of its kind in the country. I hope the painting about the Ward Family will inspire people of all ages to learn more about the significant role of the Underground Railroad in our history.

Recently, on the occasion of Ohio's bicentennial, I reminded a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly in Chillicothe that our forefathers delivered for us and now the future of our great State is in our hands. Throughout Ohio's history, the Ward family has made major contributions to the quality of life by creating jobs and opportunities for countless Americans and we should all be grateful for their hard work and dedication.

I believe Brian Brooks's and Otto Beatty's ancestors would be very proud of their work today. With the two of them at the helm of the E.E. Ward Moving and Storage Company, I think its future will be bright for many years to come.

I wish the E.E. Ward Moving and Storage Company the best of luck in all of its endeavors and I look forward to congratulating them on many successes in the future.●

JOHN C. CARY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the achievements of a distinguished member of the Missouri education community, Mr. John C. Cary.

Mr. Cary is retiring this year after 17 years of distinguished service to the children and families of the Mehlville school district. As superintendent of schools for the Mehlville district he has guided the district to academic success, ensuring quality education for all Mehlville children. He has helped nurture Missouri's youth with a steadfast dedication and care. His devotion to education has earned him awards and recognition from around the State, including the Distinction in Performance Award for 2002-2003 school year.

Mr. Cary's lifetime commitment to education and children is admirable and inspiring. Today I join with the 12,000 students in the Mehlville school district in celebrating his 31 years as a distinguished educator. I thank him for his hard work and dedication to the children and families of Missouri.●

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Memorial Day, known in Hebrew as "Yom Ha Shoah."

Seventy years ago, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany. In